

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 HA-05
NRC-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 OES-07 EB-08 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 ARA-10 /154 W
-----078438 151729Z /42

O R 151639Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3297
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FR
SUBJECT: GISCARD PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 14: FOREIGN
POLICY ASPECTS

1. SUMMARY: IN RELATIVELY SHORT FOREIGN POLICY PORTION OF GISCARD'S PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 14 HE EMPHASIZED THE NECESSARILY GLOBAL NATURE OF DETENTE, WHICH DID NOT PERMIT OF ACTIONS AIMED AT MODIFYING THE GLOBAL EQUILIBRIUM. HE CHIDED USSR, IN BARELY VEILED REFERENCE TO SHABA, FOR APPROVING TRANSGRESSIONS OF SOVEREIGN BORDERS, ADDING THAT HE HAD LAST WEEK SENT BREZHNEV A LETTER ON THIS SCORE. ON PAKISTAN, GISCARD LEFT HIS OPTIONS OPEN, SAYING NEGOTIATIONS TO INCREASE SAFEGUARDS ON NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS IN WHICH PAKS WERE INTERESTED WERE CONTINUING. HEAVIEST EMPHASIS WAS ON AFRICA. GISCARD REBUTTED IN DETAIL CHARGES THAT FRANCE'S POLICY WAS NEO-COLONIALIST. HE ENDED ON POSITIVE NOTE THAT ALL FRENCH PARATROOPS HAD LEFT KOLWEZI AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY PERHAPS, THAT TIME MAY NOW BE RIPE FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION IN CHAD. GISCARD HAD "GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE" THAT INTERESTED PARTIES, INCLUDING LIBYA, SHARED THIS ASPIRATION. AS FOR BONN SUMMIT, GISCARD HOPED THAT IT WOULD REPRESENT IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD CREATION OF A EUROPEAN ZONE OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY STABILITY AND INCREASED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY BY PARTICIPATING NATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. GISCARD TURNED TO EXTERNAL ISSUES ONLY IN LAST TWENTY MINUTES OF THE TWO-HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE ON JUNE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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14, MOST OF WHICH DEALT WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES (SEPTTEL). HE THEREFORE COVERED ONLY LIMITED NUMBER OF SUBJECTS WITH EMPHASIS ON DETENTE AND AFRICA.

3. DETENTE:

DETENTE, GISCARD SAID, CAN NEVER BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. TODAY DETENTE IS IN SOME DOUBT. SALT IS DELAYED, THE CARTER-BREZHNEV MEETING HAS NOT YET TAKEN PLACE, BELGRADE HAS PRODUCED LITTLE POSITIVE IMPETUS, WHILE AFRICAN EVENTS HAVE CREATED NEW STRESS.

GISCARD THEREFORE APPEALED TO ALL CONCERNED TO RENEW THEIR EFFORTS, SINCE "THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTE." HE STRESSED PARTICULARLY TWO ELEMENTS WHICH MUST SUPPLEMENT THE DEFINITION OF DETENTE DEVELOPED DURING BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO FRANCE LAST YEAR:

-- THAT DETENTE MUST BE GLOBAL; AND

-- THAT IT MUST NOT PERMIT ACTIONS AIMED AT MODIFYING THE WORLD EQUILIBRIUM.

IN THAT SENSE FRANCE'S OWN RECENT ACTIONS IN AFRICA
SUPPORT DETENTE, SINCE THEY ARE STABILIZING ACTIONS.

FRANCE'S BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE USSR REMAIN
"VERY POSITIVE." CURRENT PROBLEMS DERIVE FROM EXTERNAL
ISSUES, REFLECTING THE "NON-GLOBAL" CHARACTER OF
DETENTE. WITHOUT MENTIONING CUBA OR OTHERS DIRECTLY,
GISCARD THEN CITED THE CROSSING OF "SOVEREIGN BORDERS"
BY "ARMED FORCES" AS INCOMPATIBLE WITH DETENTE; ADDING

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IN EVIDENT ALLUSION TO USSR, THAT IT IS "IMPOSSIBLE"
THAT SUCH ACTIONS BE APPROVED BY PARTNERS TO DETENTE.
HE HAD LAST WEEK SENT A LETTER ALONG ABOVE LINES TO
BREZHNEV.

4. DISARMAMENT:

GISCARD SAW POSITIVE FACTORS IN THE CONTINUING DIS-
ARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS AT SSOD BUT DID NOT GO INTO DE-
TAILS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT FRANCE WOULD HAVE TO CON-
TINUE TO DEVELOP ITS OWN NUCLEAR DETERRENT, UNTIL THE
LEVEL OF NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS IN THE WORLD IS BROUGHT DOWN
TO A POINT WHERE FRANCE COULD RECONSIDER ITS POSITION.

5. PAKISTAN:

GISCARD LEFT ALL OPTIONS OPEN. FRANCE HAD BEEN
ASSURED REPEATEDLY THAT PAKISTAN IS INTERESTED ONLY IN
NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS FOR PEACEFUL USES. NEGOTIATIONS
CONTINUE IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF SAFEGUARDS.

6. LEBANON:

FRANCE'S DECISION NEXT SEPTEMBER WHETHER OR NOT TO
PERMIT ITS FORCES TO REMAIN IN UNIFIL WILL TAKE INTO
ACCOUNT THE EXTENT TO WHICH LEBANON HAS RESUMED CONTROL
OF ITS TERRITORY. THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL HAS MET
FRANCE'S FIRST OBJECTIVE IN LENDING ITS TROOPS TO
UNIFIL.

7. AFRICA:

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GISCARD SHARPLY REBUTTED EXTERNAL AND DOMESTIC
CHARGES THAT FRANCE WAS ENGAGED IN NEO-COLONIALIST
INTERVENTIONS. ON THE CONTRARY, IN EACH CASE FRANCE
ACTED IN A LIMITED WAY AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT

INVOLVED AND TO PROTECT FRENCH LIVES. AFTER REVIEWING THE HISTORY OF FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN MAURITANIA, CHAD AND ZAIRE IN DETAIL, HE STRESSED THAT THE FACTS ARE BEING DELIBERATELY DISTORTED, FOR INSTANCE IN BLAMING THE ZAIRIAN ARMY FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN KOLWEZI. AS TO CHARGES THAT FRANCE SUPPORTED CORRUPT AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS, SOME, SUCH AS MAURITANIA, WERE MOST RESPECTABLE. WHO WAS TO GRADE THE OTHERS ON THE SCALE OF RECTITUDE?

GISCARD CONCLUDED WITH HIS MOST SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT, THAT THE SITUATION IN CHAD NOW PERMITS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A "POLITICAL SOLUTION." FRANCE WOULD LEND ITS INFLUENCE TOWARD THIS END. HE HOPED OTHERS, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING LIBYA, AS WELL AS NIGER, THE SUDAN AND THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN CHAD, WOULD DO THE SAME. INDEED, GISCARD HAD "GOOD REASON" TO BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED SHARED THIS ASPIRATION.

8. THE BONN SUMMIT:

IN A BRIEF ALLUSION GISCARD STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO THIS MEETING. HE HOPED IT WOULD REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD CREATION OF A EUROPEAN ZONE OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY STABILITY, AND WOULD RESULT IN INCREASED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS19161
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780250-0915
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780656/aaaabvyf.tel
Line Count: 250
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 29916088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2339262
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GISCARD PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 14: FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, PGOV, FR, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/29916088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014